

Dimension of Security along with DENNIS MOORE, JOHN SHIMKUS, JEFF MILLER, JOHN BOOZMAN, BEN CHANDLER, and CAROLYN MCCARTHY who were all re-elected as Vice-Chairpersons of their respective Committees. Our colleague MIKE ROSS was also re-elected as the Rapporteur for the Political Committee's subcommittee on Transatlantic Relations. Our newest additions to the officer list include MIKE TURNER who was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Science and Technology Committee and DAVID SCOTT who was elected as a Rapporteur also on the Science and Technology Committee.

In sum, Madam Speaker, the fall session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Edinburgh was a success and as President of the Assembly, I took pride in the deliberations and participation of the delegates from all 28 member nations and our associate and observer members. For Members of the House or Senate interested in reading the Committee reports or presentations mentioned in this statement, they are all available on the NPA web site at www.nato-pa.int. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Dana Linnet, and Don Pena and all of the fine men and women of our embassy in London and Consulate in Edinburgh for the wonderful job they did assisting the delegation.

BELFAST

Prior to the NATO PA plenary, the U.S. delegation traveled to Belfast, Northern Ireland. The delegation received a country briefing, which included a general overview of the history and the current political and economic situation in North Ireland, from our Consul General Kamala Lakhdhir and Deputy Consul General Kevin Roland. One of the main issues discussed was the need to resolve remaining challenges related to policing and justice. The briefers expressed the hope that more progress will be made on those fronts in the next few months. The delegation held bilateral meetings in Belfast in order to demonstrate support for the fragile peace process and assess growing economic development opportunities. At the Northern Ireland Policing Board, the delegation spoke with senior officials, police officers, and politicians regarding its work overseeing the Police Service of Northern Ireland. We discussed the increasing participation of Catholic police officers, efforts to improve community policing as a means of building trust within all neighborhoods, and remaining challenges regarding the contentious issue of devolving policing and justice issues from London to Belfast.

The delegation spent several hours at the Stormont Assembly holding discussions with First Minister Peter Robinson, Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, and Speaker William Hay. These political leaders were frank about the challenges still facing Northern Ireland, particularly as regards policing matters. However, they also stressed the importance of economic development, jobs and infrastructure for enabling future progress. The delegation then observed a plenary debate in the Assembly.

Members saw first-hand efforts to stimulate economic development, including the attraction of foreign direct investment, in Northern Ireland. They visited Titanic Quarter, the largest commercial development site in Europe. The 186 acres will be developed as a blue-chip technology district, including apartments, a film studio, an entertainment section, and an

exhibition of the ship's history. The delegation also spoke with officials at the Northern Ireland Science Park who are working to bring together venture capitalists and entrepreneurs.

In addition, the delegation observed a community event which included a basketball game between Catholic and Protestant teenage girls organized by an American NGO called Peace Players. Sponsored by the Belfast Lord Mayor on the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the event was held at the Peace Walls that still divide the communities of Belfast. The Members also visited a cultural center in West Belfast (Catholic/Nationalist area), where Gerry Adams (MP-Sinn Fein party) stopped by and made brief remarks. Normandy

Madam Speaker, as has been a tradition with the U.S. delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly when we travel to Europe over either Veteran's Day or Memorial Day, the delegation makes an effort to visit a U.S. cemetery to pay our respects to our service men and women. On this occasion, we visited Normandy, holding a solemn commemorative ceremony and laying a wreath at the memorial in the American Cemetery. These visits are perhaps the most memorable and poignant moments of the delegation's trip. As our colleagues know, the critical WWII European campaign was launched on the bloody beaches of Normandy and eventually resulted in the defeat of the Nazi regime. The delegation visited the resting place of almost 9,400 U.S. soldiers, sailors, and airman who died in the liberation of France, and Europe, on Omaha and Utah beaches. The beautiful cemetery and visitors' facility overlooking Omaha Beach and the Ranger monument at Pointe du Hoc are managed by the U.S. American Battle Monuments Commission. We were deeply honored to visit the cemetery and want to thank Mr. Dan Neese, the Cemetery Superintendent, for his hospitality and the fine job he and his staff do to preserve the memory of those U.S. servicemen who gave their lives in such a noble cause. We also wish to recognize and thank Anaëlle Ferrand, our Control Officer, and Walter Frankland, Deputy Chief of Staff, European region of the American Battle Monuments Commission for their fine assistance during our brief stay.

SCOTLAND

The delegation was pleased to receive a briefing by U.S. Consul General Dana Linnet (Principal Officer). Linnet gave a brief overview of some of the economic and political issues relating to Scotland, including the issue of devolution. The delegation also held several bilateral meetings in Edinburgh. We met with Scottish Justice Minister Kenny MacAskill to discuss his decision to grant compassionate release to Abdel Basset al-Megrahi, the convicted bomber of Pan Am flight 103 that exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland. We expressed our deep disappointment regarding the Minister's decision, raising numerous issues regarding his handling of the case. We discussed U.S.-Scottish trade and cultural links with officials from the Scottish government, and we spoke about current political developments with the Scottish Parliament's Presiding Officer Alex Fergusson. The delegation was particularly interested to learn about the legislation that called for a referendum on Scotland's independence from the U.K. In addition, the delegation met senior Scottish military officials to discuss challenges facing the

NATO alliance in Afghanistan including public support for the mission in Afghanistan which is low in the U.K. and for which more must be done to strengthen public support for the efforts there.

Madam Speaker, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly provides a unique opportunity for Members of Congress to engage in serious discussions on critical issues with our colleagues from other NATO member states, associate and observer states. I believe our delegation, and thus this Congress, benefits greatly from the information we exchange and the personalities we meet during these meetings. I look forward to our next NATO PA session in February in Brussels, Belgium.

In conclusion, I would like to again acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Consular staffs in both Belfast and Edinburgh, for their hard work and dedication. I especially want to thank our entire military escort group from the United States Air Force, and Air Force Reserves, including our very fine pilots. Our diplomatic corps and military personnel provide a quiet but invaluable service in ensuring our safety and the success of our delegation business. This group of diplomats, service men and women was no exception. I thank them for their hard work and their dedication to duty.

REMEMBERING JODI ESQUIVEL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, on Friday October 30, 2009 Jodi Esquivel passed away after a two-year long battle with kidney cancer.

Jodi, a middle school English teacher in Nederland, Texas touched many lives in her short 27 years of life. Her smile was infectious and her unwavering strength and endless faith touched all those she met.

In 2007, after suffering months of back pain, Jodi was diagnosed with kidney cancer. She was in the early stages of her second pregnancy when results of an MRI showed a cancerous tumor in her kidney that had spread to her spine in three places.

Jodi leaves behind husband Justin and three year old daughter Hallie. Her family and friends celebrate Jodi for the love she shared with them and the lessons she taught them throughout her life.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF ADA MARIE HAGAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Ada Marie Hagan, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, whose lived her life with grace, wit, love and passionate commitment to family, community and social justice issues.

The matriarch of her family, Mrs. Hagan grew up in Youngstown, Ohio, the daughter of

Italian immigrants. Her parents instilled in her a strong sense of faith, family, hard work and community. She met and married the love of her life, State Representative and comedian, the late Robert Emmet Hagan, also from the Youngstown area. Together, they raised fourteen children, teaching them the values of hard work, dedication to family and giving to others—all by example.

Ahead of her time, Mrs. Hagan became a champion on behalf of social justice issues early on, and involved herself and her children in several activist movements, including the civil rights movement and worker's rights movement. Inspired by the Catholic worker's movement, Mrs. Hagan volunteered on behalf of unions and became involved in many social causes. She regularly marched with her young children down the main streets of Youngstown in support of fair housing, civil rights, peace and other causes. In addition, she volunteered her time and talents on behalf of those seeking public office, including her children. Her dedication to community service was life-long; at the age of 80, Mrs. Hagan led a group of friends and family in Washington, DC, in the Million Mom March to protest against guns.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mrs. Ada Marie Hagan, whose joyous life, framed by devotion to family, friends and service to community, will always be celebrated and remembered. I extend my deepest condolences to her children: Katie, Maggie, Jim, Tim, Bill, Bob, Jack, Chris, Anne, Elaine, Monica, Susan, Mary Therese and Jeff; to her 28 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; and also to her extended family members and many friends. Mrs. Hagan's youthful spirit, great sense of humor, boundless energy and strong convictions inspired countless people of all ages and backgrounds, promoted positive change, and helped to lift our community and our nation into the light of human rights and social justice—and she will never be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, due to scheduling conflicts, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes Nos. 889, 890, and 891. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all three votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, on the afternoon of December 11, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and failed to record my vote on rollcall vote 966. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on the Bachus substitute amendment to H.R. 4173.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
IDELL "SCOTTY" MILLER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of the beloved Idell "Scotty" Miller, devoted wife of the late John Miller; loving mother of John Jr. (deceased), Frank, Tyrone, Stanley, Czerny, and Linda; cherished grandmother of 17, devoted great-grandmother of 44, and loving great-great grandmother of 18; loving aunt and dear friend to many.

Mrs. Miller devoted her life to her faith. Her family was the foundation and joy of her life. She and Mr. Miller created a loving home to raise their children. She never missed the special events in the lives of her children and grandchildren and she would prepare wonderful family dinners for them. Mrs. Miller, also known for her wonderful laugh, great sense of humor and generous heart, lived life with great joy and love. She was a true matriarch within her family.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Mrs. Idell Miller, whose joyous spirit and love for others will exist forever within the hearts and memories of those who knew her best—her family and friends. I extend my deepest condolences to her family.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
RUTHE B. COWL REHABILITATION CENTER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center serving Laredo, Texas, Webb County, and surrounding areas. This center is nationally renowned and serves a wide range of comprehensive services including physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology, ideological assessment, counseling, and social services.

The late Mrs. Ruthe B. Cowl founded the Center in 1958 with a mission to establish a treatment center for people with disabilities of all kinds. Formerly known as the Laredo Rehabilitation Center, the Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center assists to the needs of disabled, physically challenged and handicapped individuals through a series of treatments and services. This grand initiative started on modest means of two small rooms of an old Health Department in 1959. Since 1966, the Center has continued to expand. The Center was renamed by Board Resolution to the Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center in 1970 to honor Mrs. Cowl for her tireless efforts for disabled services. Today, the Center stands as a beautiful, modern facility of nearly 33,000 square feet.

The Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center has been acclaimed at the State and National levels for being a pacesetter in the services provided in the area of rehabilitation. The Center is responsible for bringing many firsts to the Laredo and surrounding areas. The Center

plays a unique role in the community for achieving its mission to provide specialized services to those with birth defects, strokes, brain injuries, amputations, emotional problems and other physical conditions that impact quality of life. For 50 years, the Center has ensured that the certified, dedicated staff equipped with the best equipment and services are able to serve the community. The Center is a nonprofit organization which serves an average of 135 patients per day. It has provided millions of therapy visits to all in need regardless of the patient's ability to pay. The dedication, passion, and commitment that the Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center has provided for the past 50 years have been a great service to the community.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Ruthe B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center. The Center is celebrating 50 years of service and continuing its mission to assist all disabled, handicapped and physically challenged individuals who deserve quality life and treatment. I thank you for this time.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of H.R. 3288, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman JERRY MORAN

Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Account: Military Construction/VA, Department of Defense, Army

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Riley, Kansas

Address of Requesting Entity: 500 Huebner Road, Fort Riley, KS 66442

Description of Request: Provide \$7,100,000 to upgrade the Estes Road access control point at Fort Riley, KS to a primary use gate, to include new guard booths for new entry and exit lanes, perimeter fencing, visitor's center, gatehouse with over-watch position, and additional road extensions for the intersections of Victory Drive, Armistead Road, and Kitty Drive.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
STEPHEN JOHN KOVACIK III

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Stephen John Kovacik III, beloved son, brother, uncle and friend. He lived with great joy and a passionate commitment to the arts, to his family and friends, and to issues of social justice.

Mr. Kovacik had an engaging personality. He was extremely well-read and could spark an interest and a smile from everyone he met. He followed politics, and he was a long-time supporter of progressive candidates and